



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 7, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Brian L. Barroso
City Manager

CC: Marcus Davila, Director of Community Services

From: Kelli Funkhouser, Special Events Manager

Subject: **File ID: 26-5365 - Recommendation to approve the “18th Annual KEYS100 Ultramarathon” from 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2026, through 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2026**

Introduction

The City Manager’s Office requests the approval of the “18th Annual KEYS100 Ultramarathon” on Higgs Beach from 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2026, through 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2026. (Setup beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2026).

Background

The City Manager’s Office has received an application from “Ultra Sports LLC” for the 18th Annual KEYS100 Ultramarathon on Saturday, May 16, 2026, through Sunday, May 17, 2026. This event takes place on Higgs Beach and was already pre-approved by Monroe County. The applicant is requesting approval for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within the enclosed area, so City Commission approval is being requested.

This annual event is a running race of varying distances. The primary events, a 100-mile individual and team relay race, begin in Key Largo. A 50-mile individual and team relay option begins in Marathon, and a 50-kilometer individual race option begins in Big Pine Key. The finish line for all distances is Higgs Beach, where the race timer is stationed and a large tent is erected where food and drinks are available for runners and their supporters. Due to the long distances, runners are very spread-out along the course, so that the flow of finishers is gradual over a 24-hour span. There is a flow of arriving runners through the evening, all night and the next morning. The first runners arrive around 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and the last finishers arrive on Sunday afternoon. 100-

runners have 32 hours to complete the race, so they may reach Higgs Beach as late as 3:00 p.m. or so on Sunday. Approximately 900 runners will participate in the race, but the maximum number of people on site at any time is 100-150 and more typically fewer than 100. The exception is the awards program on Sunday under the big tent when as many as 200-250 may attend, although on especially hot days fewer attend.

As in past years, runners celebrate their finish with food and drinks served by the race. Beer is an option, and it is a give-away and not for sale. Race staff open the beer (cans) and hand it to the runner – no more than two to one person – with ID checked for those appearing to be close to drinking age (generally under 25). They are careful to monitor the behavior of all participants and have never had a problem with inebriation. The applicant contracts Ralons Security to have their onsite presence as they have done in prior years. Applicant contracts with Waste Management for trash, recycling and removal after the event. They typically are packed up and off premises by approximately 4:00 p.m.

Procurement

There will be no additional expenses to the city as all service costs (Police/Fire/Community Services) are covered by the applicant, based on the Special Event Matrix.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office recommends the Mayor and Commission approve the "18th Annual KEYS100 Ultramarathon" on Higgs Beach from 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2026, through 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2026. (Setup beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2026).